

**MARIN EMERGENCY RADIO AUTHORITY**

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**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** May 8, 2013  
**TO:** MERA Executive Board  
**FROM:** Maureen Cassingham, Executive Officer  
**SUBJECT:** AGENDA ITEM **B-4**: PROPOSED FY13-14 MERA OPERATING BUDGET AND ZERO-RATE FEE SCHEDULE FOR NONMEMBER USERS

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Recommended Action: Recommend Governing Board approval of the proposed MERA FY 2013-14 Operating Budget and a Zero-Rate Fee Schedule for Nonmember Users.

Background: Total Proposed Operating Budget for FY13-14 is \$1,651,432 which represents a 3.7% increase over prior year's budget. This budget is presented assuming Executive Board approval of the proposed DPW Technical Services and Communication Engineering Services Agreements earlier on this agenda. A recent history of total annual operating budgets and percentage changes over prior years is as follows:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Annual Operating Budget</u>	<u>\$ Variance</u>	<u>% Variance</u>
2007-08	\$1,716,926		
2008-09	1,647,000	< 69,926>	- 4.1
2009-10	1,642,000	< 5,000>	- .3
2010-11	1,496,105	< 145,895>	- 8.9
2011-12	1,499,630	+ 3,525	+ .2
2012-13	1,591,930	+ 92,300	+ 6.2

Major budget line item variances are County System Maintenance Services (+\$16,863) and Site Rentals and Leases (+\$16,826).

On December 14, 2011, the MERA Board formally approved System use by mutual aid and automatic backup agencies as critical to MERA Member operations and established a zero-rate fee schedule. Per Section 4 of Article VIII of the MERA Bylaws, the Executive Officer recommends, as part of the annual budget approval for FY 13-14, continuation of the zero-rate fee schedule for nonmember agencies.

**ATTACHMENT:** Proposed MERA FY 13-14 Operating Budget with Exhibits 1 & 2